

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of inducing milk production in a mammal, the method comprising:

administering to the mammal, to induce lactation, a milk-secretion stimulating amount of:

 - i) an estrogen-like agent (ELA); and a progestational agent (PGA); wherein the first day of administration is defined as day 0; and
 - ii) a biologically active somatotropin (ST); wherein the somatotropin is administered to the mammal to provide bioavailability of a milk-secretion stimulating amount beginning on day 0 and continuing for 20 days or more and continues beyond the induction of lactation;

wherein the mammal is a bovine selected from the group consisting of dairy heifers and dairy reproductive culls.
2. (Previously Submitted) The method of claim 1 wherein the ELA and PGA are administered as either a single sustained-release dose or are administered for approximately 5-12 days, beginning on day 0.
3. (Previously Submitted) The method of claim 2 wherein the ELA is administered at a dose of approximately 0.001 to 0.1 mg/kg/day and the PGA is administered at a dose of approximately .0025 to 0.25 mg/kg/day and is administered for approximately seven days.
4. (Previously Submitted) The method of claim 2 wherein the somatotropin is administered for at least 30 days from day 0.
5. (Previously Submitted) The method of claim 4 wherein the somatotropin is administered in approximately 4 doses.
6. (Previously Submitted) The method of claim 4 wherein the somatotropin is further administered in a sustained-release dose approximately every 14 days throughout lactation.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising administering a milk-secretion enhancing amount of a glucocorticoid.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the glucocorticoid is administered either on approximately day 10 to day 17 of the treatment or approximately 6 days after the final ELA administration.
9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the glucocorticoid is dexamethasone administered at a dose of approximately 0.005 to 0.5 mg/kg on approximately day 10 to day 17 of the treatment.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising subjecting the mammal to milk-stimulating photoperiods starting on, or before, day 0.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said photoperiods:
 - a) comprise 12 consecutive hours of light and 12 consecutive hours of dark during each 24 hour period;
 - b) comprise progressively longer periods of light during each successive 24 hour period; or
 - c) comprise progressively shorter periods of light during each successive 24 hour period.
- 12.-13. (Cancelled)
14. (Previously Submitted) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing physical stimulation of the mammal's mammary gland region at least once daily for at least 7 consecutive days, starting on approximately day 7 of the treatment.
15. (Previously Submitted) The method of claim 14 wherein the mammals mammary gland region is stimulated at least three times daily.
16. (Cancelled)

17. **(Currently Amended)** A method of inducing milk production in a mammal, the method comprising:

administering to the mammal, to induce lactation:

- i) an estrogen-like agent (ELA), subcutaneously, at a dose of approximately 0.007 to 0.7 mg/kg/body weight;
- ii) a progestational agent (PGA), subcutaneously, at a dose of approximately 0.0175 to 1.75 mg/kg/body weight/;
- iii) a glucocorticoid, intramuscularly, at a dose of approximately .005–.50 mg/kg/body weight; and
- iv) a biologically active somatotropin, subcutaneously, at a dose of approximately 250-750 mg;

wherein ELA and PGA doses are each administered beginning on day 0; wherein the ~~dexamethasone~~ glucocorticoid dose is administered on approximately day 10 to 17; wherein the first day of treatment is designated day 0 (zero); wherein the somatotropin is administered beginning on day 0 and periodically thereafter as required to maintain the bioavailability of a milk-secretion stimulating amount through at least day 20 of the treatment and continues beyond the induction of lactation; and wherein the mammal is selected from the group consisting of dairy heifers and dairy reproductive culls.

18.–20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously submitted) The method of claim 1 wherein with the ELA is 17β -estradiol administered on day 0, as a slow-release pellet, at a dose of approximately 0.7 mg/kg body weight, wherein the PGA is natural progesterone administered on day 0, as a slow release pellet, at a dose of approximately 1.75 mg/kg body weight; wherein the somatotropin is administered as a sustained-release pellet approximately every two weeks throughout lactation; wherein the method further comprises administering, intramuscularly, dexamethasone on day 13, at a dose of approximately 0.05 mg/kg body weight; and wherein the treatment further comprises stimulating the mammary gland of the heifer or cull at least 2 times daily for at least seven consecutive days beginning on approximately day 7.
- 22.–25. (Cancelled)
26. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the glucocorticoid is dexamethasone.